

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

### SARL NEWS SUNDAY 03 JULY 2005

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za), on packet bulletin boards and on Echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS. Willem, ZS6ALL, will be relaying the bulletin on 3 695 kHz SSB on a temporary basis. Offers from volunteers for relaying on this frequency and with good reception from the 145,725 MHz repeater in Pretoria will be welcomed. Please submit your offers to George, ZS6NE, by email to [gth@absamail.co.za](mailto:gth@absamail.co.za). Regrettably no offers had been forthcoming during the past week.

### SILENT KEY

It regrets Sarlnews to announce that we have received the sad news that Hans Halgreen, ZS6AKJ, passed away on Thursday 30th June. To his relatives and friends our most sincere sympathies.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

ZR-ZS UPGRADE IS NOW IN FULL SWING

FIRST NOMINATION FOR THE SIEMENS RADIO AMATEUR THE YEAR AWARDS RECEIVED

LIGHTNING PROTECTION - ONE OF THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE SARL RTA OPEN DAY

GAREC REPORT BACK

ZS6JDE AS 9J2JD FROM 2 TO 20 JUNE ON THE AIR

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items. Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office, which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARLNews depends on clubs and individuals for news of interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution reaches SARLNews is to place it in the correct place on web site of the SARL, which is [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. There is no guarantee that your contribution will reach SARLNews, or be included in a bulletin, if it is sent in any other way or later than Thursday evenings. It will also be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL and the news follows in detail.

#### ZR-ZS UPGRADE IS NOW IN FULL SWING

The ZR to ZS upgrade-process is now in full swing. There are 5 ways in which a ZR can upgrade to a ZS. One of these is by means of a 5 word per minute Morsecode test. The necessary forms for this have been on the SARL website for some time, and SARL Administrator Vee Antal, ZR6ZEN, has already processed some of the applications and submitted the necessary paperwork to ICASA.

The form for the remaining four assessments, to be downloaded by registered assessors, is now available on the SARL website. If you are selecting one of the four other upgrade options, contact an Assessor in your area. Your local club or the SARL office can assist you to locate the Assessor nearest to you.

The other options are:

Operating Achievement. Confirmed contacts with 100 separate stations on any combination of bands or modes. Note that the requirement of 100 separate stations means that each station can only be counted once, even if it is contacted on many bands or modes.

Electronics Construction. The candidate must construct and demonstrate one of the following: A working direct conversion or superheterodyne radio receiver that can receive and demodulate transmissions on any frequency allocated to the amateur service in any mode used by the amateur service.

A working crystal-controlled transmitter that can transmit modulated signals with a power of at least 1 watt on a frequency allocated to the amateur service using any modulation method used by the amateur service.

Public Service and Emergency Communications. The candidate must provide proof that he or she has spent at least 50 hours providing communications services for one or more public service events.

Recognition of professional qualifications. The candidate must provide proof that he or she has been awarded any of the following qualifications: A nationally recognized tertiary degree, diploma or trade certificate in electronics or radio that would ordinarily require at least two years of study to complete; or: A PMG1 or equivalent certificate qualifying the candidate as a marine radio officer.

All the information can be found on [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za).

#### FIRST NOMINATION FOR THE SIEMENS RADIO AMATEUR THE YEAR AWARDS RECEIVED

The first nomination for the Siemens Radio Amateur of the Year Awards has been received. The closing date is 31 July so there is plenty of time to submit nominations. Clubs are reminded of the junior category, amateurs under 25 years of age. In the past this category was poorly supported. Listening around club bulletins one hears often about achievement by younger radio amateurs, yet clubs are reticent to submit nominations for the Young Radio Amateur

of the Year category. Visit [www.amateurradio.org.za](http://www.amateurradio.org.za) for full details and the nomination form.

#### LIGHTNING PROTECTION - ONE OF THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE SARL RTA OPEN DAY

Experts from Clearline will be delivering a lecture on how to protect your amateur radio station and other electronic equipment against lightning at the SARL Radio Technology in Action Open day. The event will be held at the SARL National Amateur Radio Centre in Gauteng on 20 August 2005. The event features a flea market open from 08:30 and three streams of lectures and demonstrations from 10:30. A full programme will be available on the SARL's web from early next week. If you would like to receive regular updates send a mail to [rta@sarl.org.za](mailto:rta@sarl.org.za) with RTA in the subject line. What ever you do, be there!

#### GAREC REPORT BACK

The first "Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference", or GAREC, was held in Tampere, Finland on the 13th and 14th of June and I was fortunate enough to attend this Conference. This was an excellent occasion to meet people from around the world and discuss items of interest regarding emergency communications worldwide.

The Conference was held for various reasons, but mainly to further improve the international contributions the amateur radio service can make during and after disasters like the 26th December 2004 tsunami and the after effects of this disaster. The Agenda also indicated that we look at the various structures in place around the world, how they came about, the problems associated with the development of these structures and how they are administered.

We also looked at a closer working relationship between the various Emergency Organisations around the world, establishing an International Emergency Manual and also establishing specific frequencies on selected bands where we could gather after International disasters.

The SARL Bulletin last Sunday indicated that consensus was reached regarding emergency frequencies. This proposal by The Netherlands and South Africa, and other countries was put forward and adopted by the other delegates. This proposal, to create "Centre of Activity Frequencies" will now be discussed at the next IARU Region 1, 2 and 3 conference for acceptance and implementation.

I explained how this system works in South Africa, specifically on 7:070MHz whereby this frequency is regarded as a "preferred" emergency frequency and with the call of "traffic"; the frequency is cleared for use by the parties concerned with an incident.

The word "traffic" may not necessarily be adopted internationally as Mark Wood G4HLZ from the RSGB also indicated that worlds like "Priorité, Pan Pan and Emergency" could also be used. However, this decision will be taken later when this proposal comes up for discussion.

Various countries, 10 in all and including South Africa, did a presentation on their emergency structures and 7 countries on the following day, again including South Africa, had the opportunity to discuss disasters and recent exercises. The presentations by India and Sri Lanka were very well prepared, with graphic pictures and detail on how they coped with the after effects of the tsunami. The delegates from India and Sri Lanka were specially invited to attend this conference.

In total, 43 delegates from 17 countries participated in this very busy 2-day event.

The visit will be more fully covered in my Hamnet Bulletin at 12 noon today as well as various articles I have been asked to prepare on this Conference. I also intend to do a trip around the country at a time still to be decided, to present and to give feedback on this visit to Finland.

It was indeed an extremely informative experience!

#### WEATHER PICTURES AVAILABLE ON INTERNET

Kobus, ZS6KOB, informed Sarlnews that he cannot provide propagation reports any more due to his activities with weather pictures. Our sincere thanks to him for the service that he rendered over a long period to the radio amateurs in South Africa. Sarlnews is busy looking for a successor.

Here is what Kobus had to say about his new task: "I am now fully occupied with my new weather pictures from Meteosat 8. It is not a secret any more - as from yesterday (30th June) they are available on a web site! It was a gigantic task and it will keep me busy for many hours daily - that is why my time is now so limited. You may announce it Sunday in the SARL bulletin that my pictures are now available on a web site - the first of this nature in the world. I would very much like to receive feedback on this subject - either by email or to my cell phone on 082 927 3854. The web address is as follows: <http://www.yabazoo.com/weather-photos.php>."

You may well go and have a look, the pictures are fantastic. Thanks Kobus and success with your new undertaking.

#### ZS6JDE AS 9J2JD FROM 2 TO 20 JUNE ON THE AIR

Hannes, ZS6JDE, will be operating in Zambia with the call sign 9J2JD between 2 and 20 July. He will be active on 40 m, 30 m and 20 m phone and WSJT on 50,265 USB, and 144,265 USB. He will always use 30 sec periods and will transmit first. He hopes to get a few 2 m EME contacts as scheduled.

He will monitor 7,062 MHz or you can send e-mail to [9j2jd@winlink.org](mailto:9j2jd@winlink.org) or sms to +27827839275 for schedules whilst he is in Zambia.

#### MIDLANDS ARC AGM

THE MIDLANDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB reminds all members of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, which will be held in the Carbineer's Confer-

ence Centre, Greer Street, Pietermaritzburg, at 11:00 on SATURDAY 16th JULY 2005. The meeting will be followed by a bring 'n brai, so, bring some meat and a dish of salad or whatever, and join your (by then) new Committee and your fellow hams. CU there!!

#### NORTH WEST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AGM

The AGM of the North West Amateur Radio Club will take place on Saturday the 6th August at 17:00 in the Spur restaurant in Klerksdorp.

#### PROPAGATION REPORT

Due to the new developments there is unfortunately no propagation report this week.

#### DIARY OF EVENTS

3 July - Today - Last day of PEARS VHF Digital and Microwave contest; 9 July - Oakdale Midyear Flea Market 24 July - Boland ARC 40-metre Contest; 31 July - Closing date for Siemens Radio Amateur of the Year nominations; 20 August - RTA Open day at the NARC.

The SARL invites you to listen today at 10:00 to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 565, 7 205, and 7 082 kHz and many 2 m repeaters in different areas. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by .....from..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX